



### Our Mission

To ensure that all coal miners in the Commonwealth are provided with safe working environment; to provide effective Education and training to coal miner to foster safe work practices; and to ensure that statutes and regulations regarding coal mining are enforced fairly and consistently throughout the Commonwealth.



OFFICE OF MINE  
SAFETY AND LICENSING



*A word from  
Johnny Greene, Executive Director*

### Sweating Season

Roof fall accidents still continue to take the lives of coal miners across the nation each year. There were (4) four roof fall fatalities in Kentucky in 2010 the last one occurred on June 16<sup>th</sup>. It's extremely important that miners pay close attention to the roof conditions in their immediate work area at all times. Special attention needs to be given to the mine roof in all out-by areas where employees are required to work or travel as well as the roof on advancing and pillaring sections.

Now that the sweating season is here, underground mine conditions will experience a radical change due to the moisture that collects inside the mine during the summer months. Water collects in the mine roof strata causing the layers to separate and therefore the chance of a roof fall occurring is greatly increased.

When adverse roof conditions are encountered, it must be given immediate attention and the appropriate actions taken. The approved roof control plan at each mine is only a minimum standard and oftentimes additional measures must be taken to correct such conditions. It's the foreman's responsibility to review and discuss the approved roof control plan with the miners on a regular basis. "Safety meetings are a good place to do this. It's imperative that the foreman and the miners know and understand their approved plan completely. Roof plans seldom fail, in most cases where an accident or fatality occurred people had failed to follow the plan.

- \*\* Always be aware of your surroundings and keep a constant check on the mine roof at all times especially during the sweating season.
- \*\* When it is necessary to scale the roof use a bar of adequate length and stay clear of any pulled material. Make sure the bar has a firm hold on the rock and use steady controlled force on the bar.
- \*\* Select firm footing maintain good balance and pull at rock with steady controlled pressure.
- \*\* Keep a constant check on roof test holes look for cracks and evidence where the roof has shifted.
- \*\* Make sure the roof bolt spacing is on the proper centers and roof straps utilized where needed.
- \*\* Hill seams and stress fractures in the mine are extremely dangerous pay close attention and take the appropriate measures should these conditions be encountered.
- \*\* Do not advance in-by permanent roof support.

Roof safety is everybody's responsibility. It's been nearly a year since our last roof fatality. With everyone doing their part we can make roof fatalities in Kentucky a thing of the past. Be careful watch out for yourself and your fellow workers. "Remember we are our brothers keeper." Let's continue to protect the coal industries number one resource "THE MINER"



## ***Upcoming.....2011 Mine Rescue Contest***

### **June 14-16, 2011**

Hazard, Ky.

Kentucky River Mine Rescue, First Aid, Bench and Pre-shift

Contact- Craig Hall: 606-233-2117 or Ron Burns: 606-546-5123

### **July 11-14, 2011**

Pikeville, Ky.

KEMI Mine Safety and Training Competition

Contact- Daven Hoskins: 606-273-7202, Becca Cordon: 859-425-7800, ext. 1159

Marlena Hughes: 606-432-0944

### **July 26-28, 2011**

Southeast KY Community and Technical College, Cumberland, Ky.

Harlan County Safety Day Mine Rescue (2 Day) First Aid, Bench, and Preshift Contest

Contact- Suzie Williams or Tracy Bailey: 606-589-5812

### **September 8-9, 2011**

Lexington, Ky.

Kentucky State Mine Rescue, Bench, Pre-shift and MET Contest

Contact- Gueaunita Caylor: 859-257-2820

## Safety First.....

### Kentucky Mine Emergency Technicians Honored



On April 6, 2011 a member of the contract drilling company suffered a heart attack while working on B&W Resources, Inc. strip mining job in the *OMSL Barbourville District*. The victim stopped breathing and lost consciousness and was unresponsive to attempts to revive him. As a result of the quick response of the Kentucky Mine Emergency Technicians working at the B&W Resources Mine the victim survived the heart attack and is doing well. *Congratulations and thanks* to all, who came to the aid of a fellow miner, when he needed them most.





**Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing**  
**Annual Inter-Agency Mine Rescue Contest**  
**Jenny Wiley State Park**  
**April 27-28**



### OMSL MINE RESCUE TEAMS COMPETE

The Federal Mining Act sets out requirements for mine rescue coverage at the nation's coal mines. Each coal mine is required to provide coverage from two mine rescue teams. At mines with more than 36 employees, one of the teams must be a mine site team or a composite team made up of 2 miners from each represented mine. The second team can be a contract team or a state sponsored team. Mines with less than 36 employees may use state sponsored teams or composite teams as both of their mandated teams. Kentucky is the only state that provides this service for each mine, and covers basically all of the mines in the commonwealth with either one or two teams. Training requirements for Mine Rescue Teams are also mandated in the Miner Act and requires extensive training including team visits (training sessions) at each covered mine. These visits must take place at each covered mine, once or twice per team per year, depending on the size of the mine. Another requirement for certification of the signatory teams is that each team must compete in two mine rescue contest annually. These contest must conform to the National Mine Rescue Rules, and be judged by MSHA qualified judges. Each contest must have at least three teams competing and have a declared winner.

To comply with this requirement OMSL competes annually in a contest held exclusively for the 12 teams from our six inspection districts. Our teams are made up of full-time safety professionals (mine inspectors, analysts and instructors) from each of our districts. The competition was held at Jenny Wiley State Park in Prestonsburg, Ky., on April 27 and April 28 this year with threatening weather both days. Even though our day-to-day mine rescue practices vary a great deal from the contest rules, everyone seemed to enjoy the competition and the opportunity to visit and discuss mine rescue strategies, work on mine rescue communications skills and team work.

Our contests were judged by MSHA employees from District 10, District 6 and District 7 along with a few company representatives from Patriot Coal, Teco Coal, James River Coal, and Alliance Coal. We really appreciate their help and support.

Competition began at 7am each day with the teams being placed in isolation. A meeting was held with the team captains to give any special instructions for the problem of the day. A team member was selected by the roll of a dice to take a written exam to test their mine rescue knowledge. Judges were assigned to their field and briefed on that day's simulated disaster. The working of the problems by the teams began by 8am each day. The teams had to work to solve the simulated disaster, account for all missing miners and bring survivors to the surface, while wearing an approved four-hour breathing apparatus to supply oxygen in an irrespirable atmosphere. During the competition on the first day all teams had to deal with a mine explosion, high explosive gas readings, low oxygen readings and a fire before rescuing missing miners. On the second day teams dealt with the mine being mined into old works, blackdamp, high methane gas readings, and caved areas before restoring ventilation to rescue the survivors.

Even though all of the scenarios used were simulated for the contest, the two day competition provided an excellent training opportunity for our teams to hone their mine rescue skills, practicing something they all hope they never have to use again, but knowing deep inside that "WE TRAIN SO OTHERS MAY LIVE".

#### WINNERS DAY-1

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE- MADISONVILLE #1 TEAM
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE- PIKEVILLE #1 TEAM
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE- BARBOURVILLE #1 TEAM



#### WINNERS DAY- 2

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE- MADISONVILLE #1 TEAM
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE- HAZARD #2 TEAM
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE- MADISONVILLE #2 TEAM



## WKMI SAFETY DAYS

On May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Pre-shift examiners, Benchmen, First Aid and Mine Rescue Teams met to compete at the 75<sup>th</sup> annual West Kentucky Mining Institute Safety Days in Madisonville, Kentucky. This year's event saw 22 mine rescue teams, from four states competing for top honors, along with 23 pre-shift examiner contestants, 11 First aid teams and 25 benchmen. The contest, judged by OMSL and MSHA employees from several states, proved to be challenging and thought provoking for each of the contestants. The winners are listed below.

### Mine Rescue Team Competition

- First Place - Walter Energy, JWR Mine #4 team from Brookwood, Alabama
- Second place— Gibson County Coal Company's Rhinos from Princeton, Indiana
- Third place— Patriot Coal's Bluegrass mine rescue team from Henderson, Ky.
- Fourth place— Kentucky Coal Academy's MCC Team from Madisonville, Ky.
- Fifth place— Warrior Coal Company's Cardinal mine from Madisonville, Ky.

The pre-shift examiners competed in three categories, Gold for Kentucky pre-shifters who had competed in more than three contests in the past, Silver for less experienced contestants and out of state for the non Kentucky competitors. Receiving top honors in the **Gold category** was **David Mackey** from **Advent Mining** from Sebree, KY. 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to **Chris Williams** from **The Kentucky Coal Academy Team** from Madisonville, KY and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to the **Kentucky Coal Academy's Jeff Clark** also from Madisonville, KY. In the Silver Division 1<sup>st</sup> place went to **Adam Sexton** from **Hopkins County Coal, Elk Creek Mine**, from Madisonville, KY. and 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to **Patriot Coal, Highland #9's Josh Gibson** from Waverly, KY. The out of State 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy in Pre-shift went to **Terry Phegley**, **Gibson County Coal** from Princeton, Indiana.

In the Bench competition WKMI held contest for each of the three types of breathing apparatus used. In the Drager BG4 competition 1<sup>st</sup> place went to **Joey Hammerick** from the **Walter Energy, JW #4 Mine** in Brookwood, Alabama. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was awarded to **Scott Jordon** from **Shoal Creek Mine** in Jasper, Ala.. Third place also went to an Alabama contestant, **Nathan Diffey** from the **Shoal Creek Mine**.

In the Bio-Marine 240R division the top three contestants were all from the **Kentucky Coal Academy's MCC Team** from Madisonville, KY. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to **Patrick Gomez**. 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to **Brian Culbertson** and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to MCC team member **Keith Whitehouse**.

In the Bio-Marine 240 S division 1<sup>st</sup> place honors was awarded to **Mark Lloyd** of **Patriot Coal's Bluegrass Team** from Henderson, Ky. 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to **Zack Brown** of the **Gibson County Coal's Rescue Rhinos** from Princeton, In. 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to **Dwight Baker**, **Patriot Coal's Bluegrass Team** from Henderson, Ky.

**Patriot Coal, Highland #9 Mine** from Waverly, KY - **James Capeheart**, Captain, took the First Place award in First Aid. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to **Riverview Coal, Riverview Mine** from Waverly, KY - **Jerry Hedgepath**, Captain and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to **Walter Energy, JWR #4 Mine** from Brookwood Alabama, **Craig Slate**, Captain.

The Combination Team is a combination of the Mine Rescue and First aid Scores and 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Combination went to **Walter Energy, JWR #4 Mine** from Brookwood, Al. - **Larry McGiboney / Craig Slate**, Captains. 2nd Place went to **Patriot Coal, Highland #9 Mine** from Waverly, Ky. - **Terry Monroe / James Capeheart**, Captains and Third place went to **Riverview Coal, Riverview Mine** from Waverly, Ky. - **Kevin Vaughn / Jerry Hedgepath**, Captains.

# ...More from The Western Kentucky Mining Institute Safety Days



WKMI Pre-shift Gold Winners.....

1 st Place David Mackey, Advent Mining  
2nd Place Chris Williams, Kentucky Coal Academy



WKMI

Bench 240 R Winners  
Kentucky Coal Academy's MCC Team



First Aid Contest

1st Place award  
Presented by Johnny Greene, (left)  
Executive Director, OMSL



The Pre-shift Judging

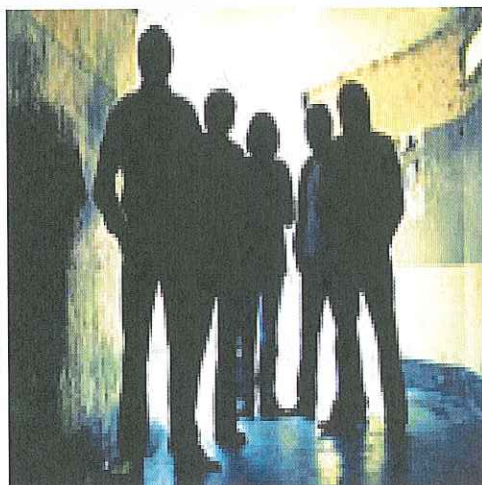


The First Aid  
Competition at WKMI 2011

## Fatalities and Serious Injuries Thru..... Second Quarter 2011

1

*Fatality*



1

*Serious  
injury*

*To view a Full Report, Please go to:*

***[HTTP://OMSL.KY.GOV/Pages/KentuckyMineFatalAccidentReports.aspx](http://OMSL.KY.GOV/Pages/KentuckyMineFatalAccidentReports.aspx)***

### **Fatal Accident:**

March 25, 2011

**Robert L Cook**  
Matrix Energy, LLC / No.1  
Martin District  
Machinery

### **Serious Injury:**

January 7, 2011

**Darrell Caine**  
Webster County Coal/ Dotiki Mine  
Madisonville District  
Machinery

***Make it a point to Practice Safe Working Habits.....Its something  
we can all Live with.....***

## Office of Mine Safety & Licensing

1025 Capital Center Drive  
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P O Box 2244  
Frankfort, KY 40601

**Phone: 502-573-0140**

**Fax: 502-573-0152**

To View OMSL Disciplinary cases before the Kentucky Mine  
Safety Review Commission, please go to:

**OMSL.KY.GOV**



## OMSL District Offices and Addresses

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Supervisor: Ricky Johnson

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P O Box 836  
Harlan, KY 40831

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Fax: 606-573-1265

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### Hazard

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P O Box 851  
Hazard, KY 41702

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